

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE REQUESTED FILING OF RULE 1.53(B)  
CONTINUATION PATENT APPLICATION BASED ON  
THE FOLLOWING PENDING PRIOR PATENT APPLICATION:

In re Application of: Gregory H. Lambrecht et al.  
Serial No.: 09/700,167  
Filing Date: 11/09/2000  
Title: CARDIAC VALVE PROCEDURE METHODS AND  
DEVICES  
Group Art Unit: 3738  
Examiner: David J. Isabella  
Attorney's Docket No.: VIA-3

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, line 3, please replace the current reference to related application with the following new reference:

-- Reference To Pending Prior Patent Application

This is a continuation of pending prior U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/700,167, filed 11/09/2000 by Gregory H. Lambrecht et al. for CARDIAC VALVE PROCEDURE METHODS AND DEVICES, which in turn claims priority to PCT Patent Application No. PCT/US00/02126, filed January 27, 2000 by Viacor Incorporated for CARDIAC VALVE PROCEDURE METHODS AND DEVICES, which in turn claims priority to (1) U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/117,599, filed January 27, 1999, (2) U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/152,135, filed August 25, 1999, and (3) U.S.

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Provisional Patent Application No. 60/161,934, filed October 28, 1999. --

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